

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, Claims 1-17 and 24-28 are allowed and Claims 1-28 are pending and under consideration. No new matter is presented in this Amendment.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

As set forth on page 5 of the Official Action, Claims 19, 20, and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully submit a Terminal Disclaimer herewith to overcome the rejection of the base claim as set forth below. Accordingly, the objection to Claims 19, 20, and 23 on this ground is moot and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

TERMINAL DISCLAIMER

Claims 18, 21, and 22 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1-5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,640,050. Although Applicants do not acquiesce in this ground of rejection, in order to expedite prosecution of the present application, submitted herewith is a Terminal Disclaimer. In view of the Terminal Disclaimer, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

As Set forth on page 2 of the Official Action, one of the references listed on the Information Disclosure Statement filed on 12/05/2003 has not been considered since the proper U.S. patent number was not disclosed. The U.S. patent number 3,995,371 to O'Keefe was inadvertently entered as 3,995,37. To assist the Examiner, the U.S. patent number 3,995,371 is listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the claims and allowance of the subject application is earnestly solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters. The Director is authorized to charge any fees that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

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By: 
Charles A Greene
Registration No. 55,223

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404
703 836 6620